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ARCULUS SYKESI (CHASTER), A LEPTONACEAN BIVALVE LIVING ON A TANAID CRUSTACEA IN THE GULF OF GENOVA (***)

KEY WORDS: Bivalvia, Leptonoidea, *Apseudes echinatus*, G.O. Sars, 1886, Tanaidacea, epizoic, Mediterranean Sea.

Riassunto

Un esame di esemplari di *Apseudes echinatus* G.O. Sars, 1886 pescati sui fondali di Arenzano nel settembre del 1986 ad una profondità di 40-50 m, ha occasionalmente portato alla scoperta di diversi individui di *Arculus sykesi* (Chaster, 1895) viventi attaccati mediante sottilissimi bissi sui crostacei.

Questa è la prima segnalazione di rinvenimento in Mediterraneo di questo microscopico bivalve vivente e del suo particolare habitat.

Summary

The bivalve *Arculus sykesi* (Chaster, 1895) (Neoleptonidae) is reported to live attached ventrally on the tanaidacean *Apseudes echinatus* G.O. Sars, 1886, in the Gulf of Genova.

Introduction

The superfamilies Galeommatoidea and Cyamioidea, especially the former group, are rich in species in the Mediterranean and their classification is by no means settled. So, is for example *Turtonia minuta* (O. Fabricius) Turtoniidae, obviously a neotenous venerid, as pointed out by Oc KELMANN (1964), and further similar cases will certainly be revealed. Many of the species are considered rare, but this may be explained by the fact that they often have very peculiar habitats, which are not easily revealed. Once these habitats have been found many species may prove to be more common.

The biology is known for very few of the Mediterranean species and most of these were reviewed by OCKELMANN & MUUS (1978).

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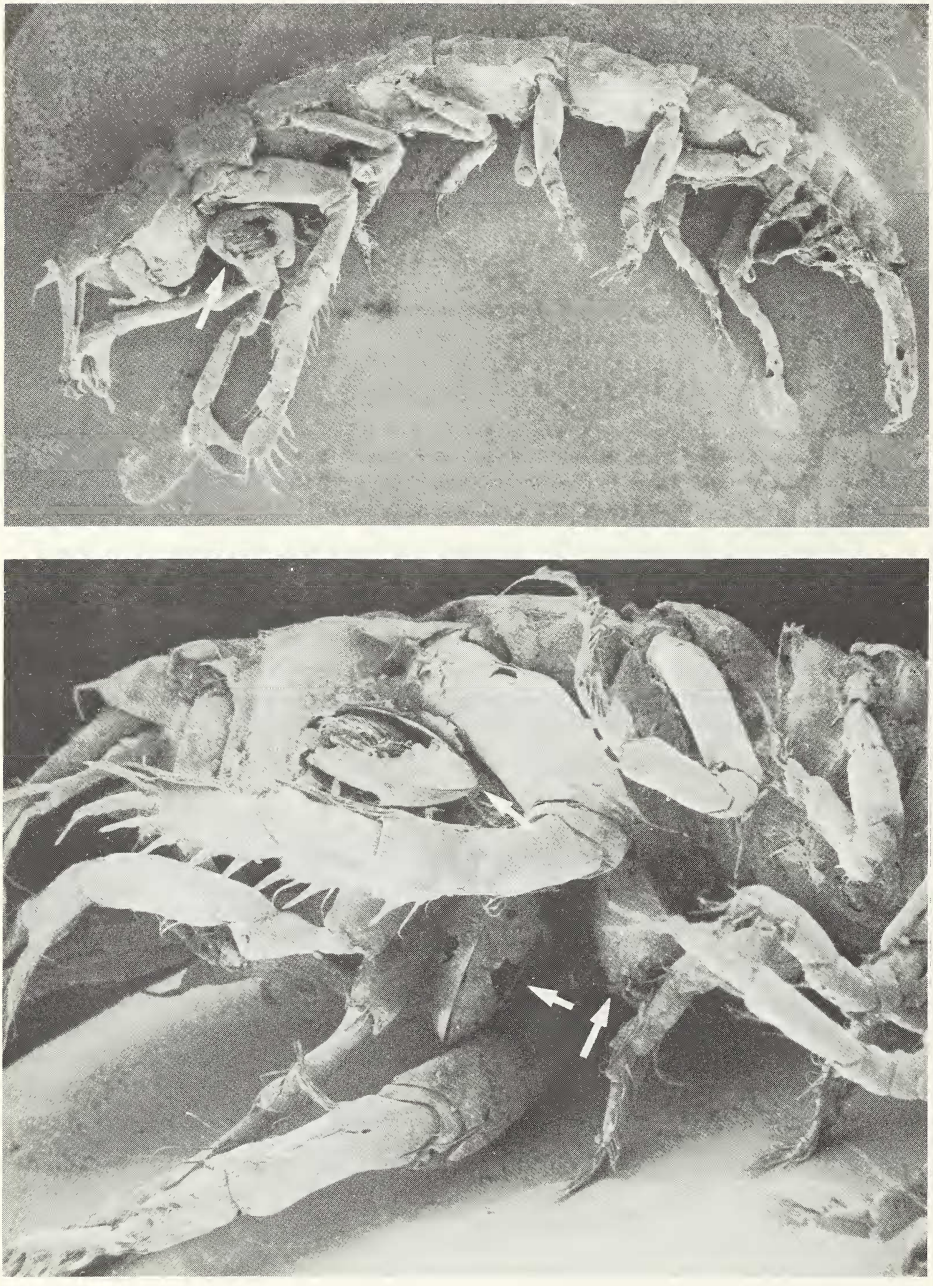

Figura 1. *Apseudes echinatus* with *Arculus sykesi* (indicated with white arrows). 9.0 mm body length of host. Locality data as in text.

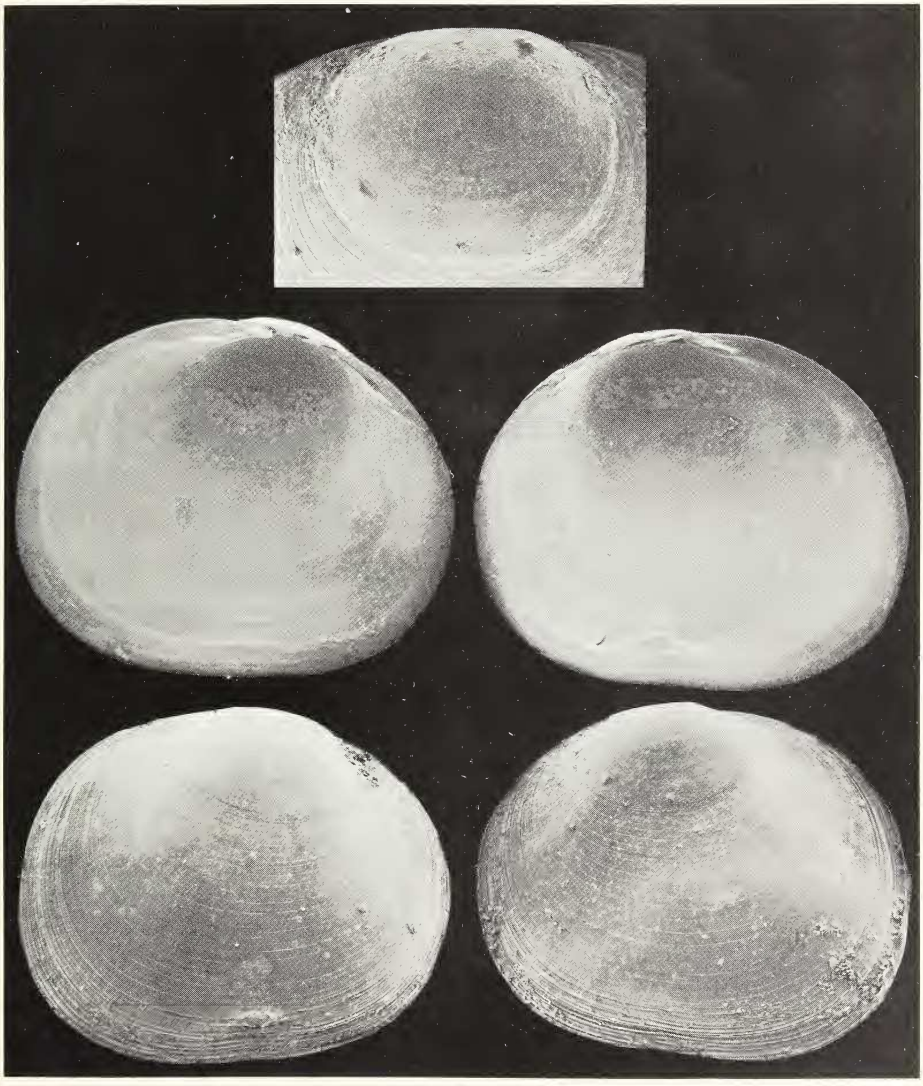

Figure 2. *Arculus sykesi*, shell from *Apseudes echinatus*. Length of shell 0.88 mm. Prosissoconch 1 (top of figure), length of shell 0.34 mm.

Arculus sykesi (Chaster, 1895)

Material examined. Italy, 20 km west of Genova, off Arenzano, 40-50 m depth, several living specimens attached between the walking legs of tanaidaceans identified as *Apseudes echinatus* G.O. Sars, 1866 and collected by Dr. Leonardo Tunesi of Lavagna (Genova) who kindly submitted the material for our examination.

Remarks. *Apseudes echinatus*, like most species of Apseudidae, live on sediment bottoms. Bacescu & Gutu (1971) recorded this species from depth between 8-12 and 50 m, although it was said to have its main occurrence below 100 m.

The nomenclature and distribution of *A. sykesi* were summarised by Keukelaar-Van Den Berg & Hoeksema 1991: Ireland and southwestern Great Britain to Algeria. The bathymetrical distribution is scantily reported but evidently it has been dredged in shallow water (down to 35 m) and found in beach drift.

The intention of our note is only to draw attention to the unusual biotope while we do not wish to go into any discussions about the systematics of this species of Chaster.

We figure the host and the valves of the bivalve as a verification of the identity.

Acknowledgements

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